

Attorney Docket No. 59489-8022.US02

REMARKS

Examiner Greene is thanked for his time during the telephonic interview of February 17, 2004 at which time the Snow and Briesacher references were discussed. In summary, the discussion focused on whether Snow would be appropriate for a 103 rejection. The Applicant submits that the Snow teachings are not appropriate for an obviousness rejection based on the high temperature requirements for hydrogen removal taught by Snow which are at least 700 degrees centigrade.

Furthermore, the fixed "getter sandwich" taught by Snow may not be able to be thermally regenerated at any temperature, due to the "matrix" structure of the device, and therefore the Examiner's concern that the temperature limitation would have to be added to the present application is believed to be unnecessary. Nevertheless, for the purposes of clarification, claim 1 has been amended to reflect the advantage of the present invention for providing low temperature hydrogen removal and particle filtering in a single unit along with the ability of the hydrogen sorption to be thermally regenerated. However, the scope of the claim has not been changed. Claims 2-10 are not obvious when considering the Snow teachings for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is not obvious.

The Briesacher reference, assigned to the Applicant of the present invention, does not teach the integrated filtering and sorption unit. The Applicant believes that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of Briesacher for at least this reason.

Objection

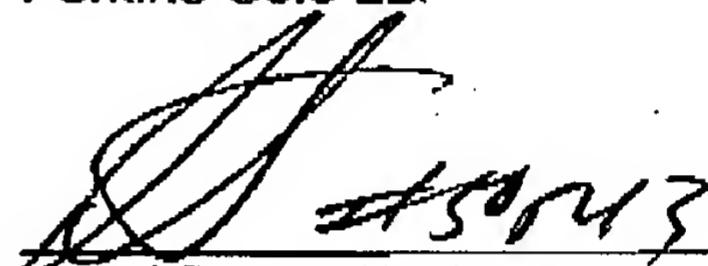
FIGS. 3-5 were inadvertently omitted from the application papers, and are submitted herein. Because these figures were included in the parent application 09/614,649 and the parent application was incorporated by reference, no new material has been added.

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Conclusion

Claims 1-10 and 39 are pending in this application and are believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner find that a telephone or in-person conference would expedite the prosecution of this Application further, he is invited to contact the Applicants' counsel at the contact listed below for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,
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